

**ANIMAL MATTERS HEARING BOARD
FOR CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND
MINUTES OF MEETING - CASES
Tuesday, February 3, 2015**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Animal Control Board for Charles County, Maryland, was convened by the Chairman at 6:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, Charles County Government Building, with the following Board members in attendance.

Andrew Parker, Chairman
Amanda Foreman, Vice Chair
William Van Blarcum
Kristin Lake
Amanda Gibson
Maria Padgett
Leigha Messick
Edward Tucker
Matthew Clagett, Associate County Attorney
Maria Team, Clerk

A quorum was declared based upon the presence of a majority of the appointed Board Members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Animal Matters Hearing Board for January 6, 2015, were approved and adopted.

Citation No. 6431 and 6432 – issued to Harold Stull, 861 Copley Avenue, Waldorf, Maryland for the alleged violation of Section 230.10.A, Section 230.12 and Section 230.9.A of the Charles County Animal Regulations for his dogs “Bandit” and “Raven”. This case was recalled from the hearing of January 6, 2015 to allow Mr. Stull a chance to provide proof of a current rabies certificate and a current animal license for his two dogs and to inform the Board what he has done to keep his dogs on his property. Mr. Stull was present at the hearing, and did provide proof of a current rabies certificate and a current license for his two dogs and testified that he had installed a wooden fence to keep his dogs on his property. The Vice-Chairman made a motion to find Mr. Stull in violation of all three violations and fine him a total of \$500.00 and suspend \$380.00 from that amount on the condition that he obey all laws for 18 months. A second was made and the vote passed unanimously. The Board allowed Mr. Stull until the close of business on March 3, 2015 to satisfy the balance of \$120.00.

Citation No. 6393 and 6434 – issued to Jesse Womack, 500 Gerry Court, Waldorf, Maryland 20602 for the alleged violation of Section 230.10.A and Section 230.9.A of the Charles County Animal Regulations for his dogs “Stitch” and “Santana”. Ms. Brenda Womack (mother of Jesse Womack) appeared and took ownership of the two dogs. Testimony was heard from Officer Kevin Earle and Ms. Womack. Ms. Womack was able to present a current rabies certificate and a current animal license to the Board for the two dogs.

Based on the testimony and evidence presented, the Vice Chair made a motion to find Ms. Womack in violation of the two Sections of the Animal Control Regulations and fine her a total of \$400.00 and suspend \$310.00 from that amount on the condition that she obey all laws for 18 months. A second was made and the vote passed unanimously. The Board allowed Ms. Womack until the close of business on March 3, 2015 to satisfy the balance of \$90.00.

Citation Nos. 6346 and 6347 – issued to Aaron Tibbs, 903 Sloan Avenue, Waldorf, Maryland for the alleged violation of Section 230.10.A, Section 230.12 and Section 230.9.A of the Charles County Animal Regulations for his dogs “Sasha” and “Chop”. Mr. Tibbs, having failed to appear, and there being no request for a continuance, a total judgment of \$500.00 was entered and this case was referred to the State’s Attorney’s Office.

Citation No. 6434 – issued to Calvin Williams, 4785 Young Road, Waldorf, Maryland 20602 for the alleged violation of Section 230.12 A, Section 230.9.A and Section 230.12.6.C of the Charles County Animal Control Regulations for his dog “King”. Mr. Williams was present at the hearing and not represented by counsel. Testimony was heard from Officer Alison Budd and Mr. Williams. Mr. Williams denied being in violation of all three Sections of the Animal Control Regulations. Mr. Williams submitted a current animal license and a current rabies certificate for his dog.

Based on the testimony and evidence presented, the Vice-Chair made a motion to allow find Mr. Williams in violation of all three Sections of the Charles County Animal Regulations and fine him a total of \$175.00 on the condition that he obey all laws for 18 months. A second was made and the vote passed unanimously. The Board allowed Mr. Williams until the close of business on March 3, 2015 to satisfy the balance of \$175.00 or the case will be referred to the State’s Attorney’s Office. The Board also allowed Mr. Williams to reclaim his dog the following day on the condition that he pay Tri County Animal Shelter for reclaim and boarding fees.

Citation No. 6399 – issued to James A. Griffiths, 6825 Pale Morning Circle, Hughesville, Maryland 20637 for the alleged violation of Section 230.10.A and Section 230.12.5 of the Charles County Animal Regulations for his dog “Thor”. Mr. and Mrs. Griffiths were present at the hearing and not represented by counsel. They admitted to being in violation of the two Sections of the Charles County Animal Regulations. Testimony was heard from Officer Kevin Earle and Mr. and Mrs. Griffiths. Testimony was also heard from Nancy Sites (witness for AC). Entered into evidence was a reclaim and boarding fee in the amount of \$315.00. marked AC Ex. 1.

Based on the testimony and evidence presented, the Vice Chairman made a motion to find Mr. and Mrs. Griffiths in violation of Section 230.10.A and Section 230.12.5 of the Charles County Animal Regulations for their dog “Thor” and fine them a total of \$200.00 and order them to comply with the requirements stated in Section 230.12.5.E.1, 2,3,4, 5 (a), (b), and (c) and 8 of the Animal Regulations and obey all laws for 18 months. A second was made and the vote passed unanimously. The Board also allowed Mr. and Mrs. Griffiths to reclaim their dog the following day on the condition that they pay all reclaim and boarding fees incurred at Tri-County Shelter. Ms. Griffiths satisfied the balance of \$200.00 at the end of the hearing.

Citation Nos. 6395 through 6398 – issued to Mario Etienne, 7040 Wood Glen Drive, Hughesville, MD 20637 for the alleged violation of Section 230.8 for Citation Nos. 6395, 6396 and 6397 and Section 230.10.A, Section 230.10.C and Section 230.12.4.A (9) of the Charles County Animal Regulations for various dogs. Mr. Etienne was present at the hearing and not represented by counsel. Testimony was heard from Officer Kevin Earle and Mr. Etienne. Entered into evidence were 53 photos marked AC Ex. 1. Without objection, Officer Earle withdrew Section 230.10.B from Citation No. 6398.

Based on the testimony and evidence presented, the Chairman made a motion to find Mr. Etienne in violation of Section 230.8 of the Charles County Animal Regulations for Citation Nos. 6395, 6396 and 6397 and fine him a total of \$2,900 and suspend \$1,600 from that amount on the condition that he obey all laws for 18 months and a fine of \$740.00 with \$500.00 suspended for Citation No. 6398. A second was made and the vote passed unanimously. The Board allowed Mr. Etienne until the close of business on May 19, 2015 to satisfy the balance of \$1540.00 or the cases would be referred to the State’s Attorney’s Office.

Citation No. 6435 – issued to Ronald Kilinski, Jr., 11950 Golde Farm Place, Waldorf, MD 20662 for the alleged violation of Section 230.10.A, Section 230.9.B, Section 230.12 and 230.12.6..C of the Charles County Animal Regulations for his dog “Stryker”. Mr. Kilinski was present at the hearing and not represented by counsel. Mr. Kilinski admitted to being in violation of Section 230.12 and Section 230.12.6.C and not in violation of Section 230.10.A and Section 230.9.A of the Animal Control Regulations. Testimony was heard from Officer Alison Budd and Mr. Kilinski. Mr. Kilinski advised the Board that he would be putting up an electric fence to keep his dog on his property.

Based on the testimony heard, the Vice Chairman made a motion to find Mr. Kilinski in violation of all the above allegations and fine him a total of \$115.00 for Section 230.10.A and Section 230.9.A, suspended if he provides proof of both to the Office of the County Attorney by February 17, 2015. Also, the Board allow Mr. Kilinski to reclaim his dog the following day on the condition that he pay reclaim and boarding fees to Tri-County Animal Shelter and obey all laws for 18 months. A second was made and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the hearing at 8:50 p.m.

